



Volunteering in Scotland (Omnibus Survey): Technical Note

Purpose

Volunteer Development Scotland commissioned TNS BRMB in 2011 to carry out survey research into current and potential levels of volunteering in Scotland. The survey is intended to better understand:

- Current levels of volunteering (formal and informal)
- Future plans for volunteering
- Awareness and use of volunteering infrastructure

VDS will use these findings to help assess the feasibility of current policy agendas - the success of which relies on increased participation in voluntary activity - and to help inform the design and improvement to services aimed at extending depth and breadth of participation in Scotland.

Method and sample

- This research was conducted amongst the population of Scotland, using the TNS-BMRB Omnibus, Scottish Opinion Survey, as the means of data collection.
- The survey was carried out between October and November 2011 with a representative sample of 1033 adults aged over 16 years participating in the survey.
- The sample was representative of the Scottish population based on sex, age and socio-economic group.
- Participants were interviewed at face-to-face at home and recorded their views using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing)
- Quota sampling was used.
- Data from the survey was weighted to match population estimates from the BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) Establishment Survey 2 Years Ending December 2008 and the 2001 Census.

Sample Profile

The table below shows the breakdown of both the un-weighted and weighted survey respondents to the following categories: sex, age and socio-economic group:

Base 1033		Un-weighted %	Weighted %
SEX	Male	48	48
	Female	52	52

AGE	16-24	12	14
	25-34	15	15
	35-44	17	18
	45-54	18	18
	55-64	16	15
	65 plus	22	20
Socio-economic group (SEG)	AB	17	20
	C1	28	27
	C2	19	22
	DE	36	31

Definitions and classifications

Volunteer

Items used to identify current volunteers were adapted from the Scottish Household Survey and identifies 'formal volunteers' – those volunteering through an organisation or group.

From this filter question, respondents were classified as:

- Current volunteers: those volunteering at the time of the survey
- Former volunteers: those who volunteered in the past but stopped
- Potential volunteers: those who weren't currently volunteering but interested in starting or re-starting volunteering
- Reluctant volunteers: those who were not interested in starting or re-starting volunteering.

This survey also identifies 'informal volunteers', those who volunteer as an individual helping other individuals outside their home, who aren't relatives.

Urban / Rural

The Scottish Government 2 fold Urban Rural Classification was used to analyse the results of the survey:

Scottish Government 2 fold Urban Rural Classification	
1 Urban Areas	Settlements of over 3,000 people
2 Rural Areas	Settlements of less than 3,000 people

Socio-economic Group

The keys to identify socio-economic groups are:

- AB – Managerial or professional
- C1 – Supervisory or clerical
- C2 – Skilled manual workers
- DE – Unskilled/lowest grade workers

